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THE PARISH POST

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF SANDFORD, NEW BUILDINGS AND UPTON HELLIONS CHURCHES

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August 2022

A Pastoral Letter from Revd Janet May

Summer is upon us and we are enjoying some gloriously sunny weather. What a blessing and something for us to smile about when the world seems such a difficult place at the moment.

Having just recovered from Covid, I am grateful to be through the other side, with the rest of the family now recovering. Although life is back to some sort of normality, the pandemic is still raging and we still live with the anxiety of falling ill with this terrible virus. Thank God for vaccinations and improvement in treatment.

As I return from a two week break away with my family, I am reflecting on life on earth in 2022. We could look at the world that God created and wonder where He is while the war in Ukraine rages on, food and fuel prices are rising almost daily, there are famines and wars and natural disasters. Where is God in all that? The answer is that He is right there with us in the difficulties. We are not promised an easy journey while on earth, but we are promised by God that He will never leave us. When we find ourselves doubting or feeling distressed, look around and see God's beautiful creation. We live in one of the most beautiful parts of the country, surrounded by farmland and woodland. There are birds, insects and animals that we can watch with joy and see the beautiful trees and flowers. What creativity God shows in His creation.

When you find yourself feeling hopeless with all that is going on around us, look to God's creation around us, which sings of His love and grace. Jesus came so that we may have fullness of life. The life we live may not always be easy, but we have the hope that one day we will be with Jesus, where there is no more anxiety, war, pain, sickness or tears. Don't ever forget that Jesus loves each one of us with a pure and deep love that put Him on a cross so that we may be

saved. When you feel low, pray. Talk to God as you would talk to a friend. He is always there, knowing you and loving you and just waiting for you to call on Him. He is a good and faithful God and even though we can't see or understand what He is doing sometimes, never forget that His plan for us is a good one and that He is with us, through all the highs and lows of life. Covid, war, famine – all of it feels easier and lighter, when we turn our eyes upon Jesus, just as the song says:

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in His wonderful face,
and the things of the earth will grow strangely dim,
in the light of His glory and grace.”

Have a blessed Summer.

Janet



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